

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please add the following abstract to the end of the application:

A method of grading tubules in a first histological slide image derives a second image of objects in the first image of objects in the first image with boundary characteristics corresponding to tubules. It also derives a third image of second objects in the first image having pixel value characteristic of fat and holes within tubules. It combines data from the second and third images to identify holes within tubules and determines the relative areas of holes as proportions of their tubules to provide ratios, individual tubule ratios and an overall ration for all holes and tubules collectively. The number of tubules containing appreciably sized holes is counted. Tubules are graded by thresholding based on individual and overall tubule/hole area ratios, tubule/object proportion, tubule number and number of tubule with appreciably sized holes. Thresholds are derived from image gradation by an appropriate medical expert.